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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

December 18, 2001

TO: Authorized Representatives, Title I Directors and Building Principals of Schools  
Eligible for Reading Excellence Program Subgrants

FROM: Marsha Davis, REA Project Director  
Title I Improvement Specialist

RE: Reading Excellence Program Update

At the end of September you received a letter from Linda McCulloch notifying you about your district or school's eligibility to apply for a subgrant through the Reading Excellence Program. Montana's award of \$10.9 million dollars over the next three years will be used to improve reading instruction and student performance in high poverty schools primarily identified for Title I school improvement.

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with notice about a videoconference we have scheduled for **January 31<sup>st</sup>** from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. The most current reading research and the purposes of the Reading Excellence Program will be the focus for this conference. We have set seven sites for this activity: Billings, Bozeman, Helena, Missoula, Great Falls, Havre, and Poplar (not confirmed as yet). Due to space limitations, each school should plan to send no more than three people including the elementary principal. We anticipate that larger districts will also want to send one or two central office staff. Please complete the form attached so that we will have sufficient copies of materials for each site.

Additionally, I want you to know that workshops are being planned for the last week of February that will focus on the application process itself for the local reading improvement subgrant (LRI). Details concerning these workshops will be provided at the videoconference. A second type of subgrant called the tutorial assistance subgrant (TAS) will provide external and school-based tutoring opportunities for children with reading difficulties. More details about this subgrant process will be forthcoming.

Information has and will continue to be posted to the OPI Reading Excellence Program web page as progress develops - <http://www.metnet.state.mt.us/readingex.shtml>. Links to the Department of Education's Reading Excellence page and President Bush's Reading First Initiative are also there for your review.

If I can address questions you have, you may contact me at [msdavis@state.mt.us](mailto:msdavis@state.mt.us) or call 444-0793.

# ***READING RESEARCH VIDEOCONFERENCE***

**Please complete the following and return by January 18, 2002.**

Districts and schools eligible to apply for the Reading Excellence Program subgrants for Local Reading Improvement (LRI) and Tutorial Assistance Subgrants (TAS) are invited to send up to three participants from each eligible school.

## **Conference sites**

Check the preferred site location:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-Billings    | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Falls College of Technology  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-Bozeman     | <input type="checkbox"/> MSU-Northern-Havre                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U of M-Missoula | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck Community College-Poplar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helena-DPHHS    |   |

School District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

For larger districts:

Central Office Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Central Office Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax to:** Marsha Davis  
OPI

**OR**

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